

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES JUNE 2003



A Seasonal Drop in Unemployment Rates

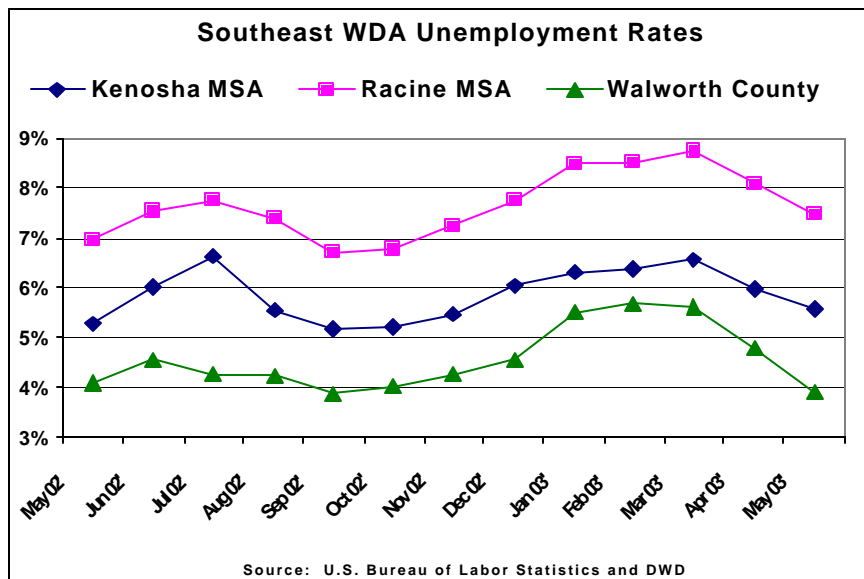
Walworth County's unemployment rate showed the largest decrease of the southeast counties, dropping by nine-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent. This month's labor force figures look exactly as those of recent years where May brings about such a dramatic seasonal change. Though the smallest county in the WDA, it showed the largest volume and percentage increases in labor force over the month having added 1,550 more employed and showing 440 fewer unemployed for a net gain of 1,110 in the labor force (+ two percent). The unemployment rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in May of 2002; the first annual decrease in May's unemployment rate in Walworth County since 1999.

Not only did Walworth County show the largest increase in labor force but shows the largest increase in the number of jobs filled. Walworth gained 1,400 jobs in May for a gain of 3.4 percent more jobs since April. This gain is typical for May in Walworth County. The new jobs were heavily concentrated in leisure and hospitality (+900 jobs) and in construction (+300 jobs). Trade and business services employment showed slight gains leaving the remaining industries showing flat performance over the month. Annually, a net loss of 800 jobs is shown for Walworth with deficits in business services, total trade, manufacturing and financial activities employment. Also, a 400 job decrease shows in government employment, but it is felt that this is a reporting subtlety with post-secondary educational institution and not unusual for transitional month like May.

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 7.5 percent for the month of May. This rate is down six-tenths of a point over the month, but is five

tenths of a point higher since last May. May 2003 labor force figures show 870 more employed over the month and 570 fewer unemployed. Historically, the rate has not been this high in the month of May since 8.0 percent was registered in 1986. The average unemployment rate for the Racine MSA over the last decade has been about 5.1 percent in May.

Racine MSA industry employment shows a seasonal and typical May increase of about 1,100 jobs. Job growth was distributed fairly evenly among most of the sectors with construction showing the largest increase of 300 jobs. Manufacturing employment shows a monthly increase of 200 jobs, and this sector's employment, as sluggish as it is, has slowed its losses considerably in 2003. Annually, manufacturing has shown an annual employment increase (+300 jobs) for the second straight month. In fact, Racine's total industry employment shows the largest net gain of jobs in the southeast region (+900 jobs).



The Kenosha MSA

unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased by four-tenths of a point over the month to 5.6 percent. May's average unemployment rate from 1990 to 2002 is 4.3 percent. Annually, the unemployment rate is three-tenths of a point higher as 340 more Kenosha residents are unemployed.

Kenosha County industry figures show growth of 900 jobs over the month and 200 more jobs annually, which is the first annual jobs increase for May since 2000. Every industry gained employment or at least held steady over the month. Annually, retail trade gained the most jobs (+800 jobs), education and health services gained 200 jobs, while manufacturing employment decreased by 500 jobs. Leisure and hospitality employment is running an annual deficit, as well, of 400 jobs.

May 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
Civilian Labor Force*	3,077,069	83,798	94,945	55,523	234,266	49,508	39,926
Persons Employed	2,921,216	79,106	87,860	53,359	220,325	46,257	35,116
Persons Unemployed	155,853	4,692	7,085	2,164	13,941	3,251	4,810
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.6%	7.5%	3.9%	6.0%	6.6%	12.0%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	2,799.5	54.4	80.6	42.2	177.2		
Goods Producing Jobs	639.7	12.8	24.2	10.5	47.5		
Service Producing Jobs	2,159.8	41.6	56.4	31.8	129.8		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	123.6	2.3	4.0	1.9	8.2		
All Manufacturing	516.1	10.5	20.2	8.5	39.2		
Total Trade	432.3	9.4	12.7	5.1	27.2		
Wholesale Trade	116.6	2.0	3.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	315.7	7.4	9.6	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	106.4	1.7	1.9	1.3	4.9		
Financial Activities	156.2	1.6	2.6	1.0	5.2		
Education and Health Services	362.3	7.4	10.1	4.1	21.6		
Leisure & Hospitality	245.1	5.9	6.2	8.0	20.1		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	432.7	6.3	12.2	4.6	23.1		
Information	50.9	0.4	0.7	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	243.3	3.2	6.7	xx	xx		
Other Services	138.5	2.7	4.8	xx	xx		
All Government	424.8	9.3	10.7	7.7	27.7		
Change from April 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	940	820	290	1,110	2,220	430	130
Persons Employed	23,190	1,090	870	1,550	3,510	640	350
Persons Unemployed	-22,250	-270	-570	-440	-1,290	-210	-210
Unemployment Rate	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.9%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	32.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	3.4		
Goods Producing Jobs	12.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	1.0		
Service Producing Jobs	19.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	2.4		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	10.9	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8		
All Manufacturing	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2		
Total Trade	6.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6		
Wholesale Trade	1.7	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	4.9	0.2	0.1	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1		
Education and Health Services	-0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2		
Leisure & Hospitality	12.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	1.8	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3		
Information	0.1	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	2.8	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	-1.1	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	-3.4	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
Change from May 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	65,920	1,520	2,980	-260	4,240	820	1,560
Persons Employed	59,950	1,180	2,300	-140	3,340	690	920
Persons Unemployed	5,980	340	680	-120	900	130	640
Unemployment Rate	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	1.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	-0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.8	0.3		
Goods Producing Jobs	-18.1	-0.6	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		
Service Producing Jobs	18.0	0.8	0.7	-0.7	0.8		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-7.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2		
All Manufacturing	-10.4	-0.5	0.3	-0.1	-0.3		
Total Trade	2.6	0.8	0.3	-0.3	0.8		
Wholesale Trade	1.9	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	0.8	0.8	0.2	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1		
Financial Activities	3.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1		
Education and Health Services	6.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.6		
Leisure & Hospitality	-0.7	-0.4	-0.3	0.3	-0.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	8.1	0.0	0.5	-0.5	0.0		
Information	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	1.8	0.0	0.5	xx	xx		
Other Services	6.4	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	-1.3	0.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.2		

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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